Statement

Production of foodgrains at SFCI

(Production of seeds and foodgrains in Qtls).

Name of the farms of SFCI	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Suratgarh (Rajasthan)	53582	73375	62294
Sardargarh (Rajasthan)	29821	43018	33363
Jetsar (Rajasthan)	8765	19090	17170
Hisar (Haryana)	34567	42098	49477
Ladhowal (Punjab)	19121	22258	17008

Sugarcane Research Programme in Maharashtra

2893. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any vigorous research programme in sugarcane has been launched in Maharashtra for improving technology and varieties of sugarcane;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the impact of research programme on production of sugarcane has been evaluated by Government in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are two research centres under All India Coordinated Research Project for sugarcane in Maharashtra state located in Padegaon & Kolhapur. Besides, the Vasantdada Sugar Institute, Pune is also engaged in Sugarcane research. These centres test several sugarcane varieties for their suitability for cultivation in the state. Crop production and protection technologies are also developed by these centres for adoption by farmers. Several varieties like Co 419, Co 740, Co 7218, Co 7527, Co 62175, Co 8014, COM 7125, COM 7712, COM 88121 etc. have been identified and are being cultivated on a large scale.

(c) and (d) The impact of research programme on Sugarcane production is evaluated every year during National Wrokshop on Sugarcane and also by the Quinquennial Review Team of ICAR once in 5 years.

Loans to the Farmers Through Cooperative Societies

2894. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cooperative societies in the country and the number of credit societies out of them;

(b) the action proposed to bring down the rate of interest for the poor farmers; and

(c) the steps proposed for timely availability of the loans to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) There are 3,42,000 cooperative societies in the country out of which 92,682 are credit societies as on 31st March, 1996.

(b) The rates of interest in respect of advances are based on quantum of advances/limit. It may not be feasible to further reduce the interest rates for agricultural sector, which are already lower in comparision to other sectors.

(c) The emphasis on agricultural credit continues to be progressive institutonalisation for providing timely and adequate credit to farmers. There has been a constant increase in the